

Appl. No. : 09/976,665
Filed : October 10, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 4 and 11 without prejudice. Please add Claims 15 and 16.

1-14 (canceled)

15 (new): A method of making a left turn in a waiting vehicle at an intersection where vehicles travel on the right side of a road, wherein a first oncoming vehicle is entering the intersection and wherein a second oncoming vehicle following the first oncoming vehicle has its left-turn signal on, said method comprising:

sensing blinking signals of the left-turn signal of the second oncoming vehicle from a first end of an optical fiber installed linearly along the centerline of the road, said first end being directed facing a driver of the waiting vehicle, wherein the blinking signals are reflected to said first end from a second end of the optical fiber, wherein the optical fiber is longer than the length of the first oncoming vehicle such that said second end is directed to receive the blinking signals of the left-turn signal of the second oncoming vehicle and reflect the light to the first end and the waiting vehicle; and

the waiting vehicle turning left when the driver deems conditions to be safe taking into consideration the presence of the blinking signals sensed.

16 (new): The method of making a left turn according to Claim 15, wherein the first end of the optical fiber comprises light-emitting diodes and the second end of the optical fiber comprises CDS photoelectric elements.

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SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courteous telephone interview extended to their representatives that was conducted on July 1, 2004. No exhibits or demonstrations were shown.

Identification of Claims Discussed

New Claim 15 was discussed.

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

Kim (US 6,637,973) cited by the Examiner was discussed.

Proposed Amendments

Applicant's representatives explained that new Claim 15 reciting a method of making a left turn could be distinguished from the invention of Kim. The Examiner suggested that the step of sensing in Claim 15 recite that said first end being directed facing a driver of the waiting vehicle.

Principal Arguments and Other Matters

Applicant's representatives explained that in Kim, as is apparent from Figs. 8 and 9, light is received from a vehicle and reflected in front of the vehicle, whereas in the present invention, light is received from a second oncoming vehicle following a first oncoming vehicle and reflected to a driver of a waiting vehicle at an intersection. Further, Applicant's representatives explained that Fig 13 of Kim suggests neither the existence of a second oncoming vehicle behind a first oncoming vehicle nor making a left turn at an intersection.

Results of Interview

The Examiner stated that he understood the difference between the presently claimed invention and that of Kim, but he might need to conduct a new search.